



# 2001 Nonresidential

**Changes to Energy Code Requirements  
(other than Group R Occupancies)**

## Energy Code UPDATE

February 27, 2002

After a lengthy public review process in 2001, the City of Seattle adopted revisions to the Energy Code requirements for nonresidential spaces (other than Group R occupancy). The 2001 Seattle Energy Code ordinance took effect on October 24, 2001, but also allowed applicants to choose to comply with the 2000 Seattle Energy Code in lieu of the 2001 Seattle Energy Code until February 28, 2002 (see sidebar).

There are two other developments since the 2001 Seattle Energy Code was approved:

- First, the Washington State Building Code Council adopted the 2001 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) in November 2001. As the WSEC is the State-wide baseline, this will require revisions to the 2001 Seattle Energy Code.
- Second, Seattle DCLU has now begun work on three tasks identified in Ordinance 12025, which adopted the 2001 Seattle Energy Code. These tasks include review of code requirements related to RS-29, existing mechanical systems, and exterior lighting.

Together, these changes will result in a 2002 Seattle Energy Code that will take effect on July 1, 2002.

### Grace Period for 2001 Energy Code Ends February 28

All applications for nonresidential projects submitted on March 1, 2002 or later are subject to the 2001 Seattle Energy Code.

The 2001 Seattle Energy Code ordinance, which was passed by the Seattle City Council and signed by the Mayor in September 2001, took effect on October 24, 2001. The ordinance allowed applicants to choose to comply with the 2000 Seattle Energy Code in lieu of the 2001 Seattle Energy Code until February 28, 2002.

Paper copies of the 2001 Seattle Supplement are available at the Applicant Services Center (20th floor, Key Tower). Electronic versions may be downloaded or viewed on the Seattle Energy Code website at [www.cityofseattle.net/dclu/energy](http://www.cityofseattle.net/dclu/energy).

### Summary of 2001 Washington State Energy Code nonresidential changes

In November 2001, the Washington State Building Code Council (WSBCC) adopted revisions to the Washington State Energy Code (WSEC). The revised code will be known as the 2001 Washington State Energy Code and takes effect statewide on July 1, 2002.

The nonresidential revisions (other than Group R occupancy) are limited to changes in the mechanical requirements (Chapter 14), many of which are similar to 2001 Seattle amendments. The key changes are:

- Minimum HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning) equipment efficiencies have been updated to national standards, ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2001.
- Air intake, exhaust and relief to have motorized dampers in most cases, dampers to have air leakage limits, similar to ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2001.
- Economizer required for HVAC serving computer rooms, electronic equipment, radio equipment, and telephone switchgear.
- Economizer threshold now 20,000 Btu/h and larger for units on roof and in mechanical rooms adjacent to the outdoors;
- Water economizer criteria and documentation specified, integrated operation required for air and water systems (with exceptions), humidification criteria specified.
- Water economizer is limited to 500 tons per building.
- Air economizer to be base case in RS-29 analysis.

The revisions were published in January 2002 in the Washington State Register 02-01-112 (go to <http://slc.leg.wa.gov/wsr/register.htm>, then "index," then "Building Code Council"). For further information, see the WSBCC website at [www.sbcc.wa.gov](http://www.sbcc.wa.gov), or contact Krista Braaksma (WSBCC staff) in Olympia at (360) 725-2964.

**NOTE:** The *residential* (Group R occupancy) revisions are the most significant changes to the residential Energy Code requirements since 1991. These changes were summarized in the January 2002 issue of the dcluINFO newsletter.





# 2002 Nonresidential

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(other than Group R Occupancies)**

## Energy Code UPDATE

February 27, 2002

Work on the 2002 Seattle Energy Code and responding to items listed in Ordinance 120525 began in January 2002. These tasks were summarized in the January 2002 issue of the *dcluINFO* newsletter. Draft material and meeting notices were emailed to those on the Seattle Energy Code email list and information has been posted on the Seattle Energy Code website at **[www.ci.seattle.wa.us/dclu/energy](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/dclu/energy)**. A draft document summarizing the 2002 Seattle Energy Code (Seattle amendments to the 2001 Washington State Energy Code) is available online at this address.

**Most of this year's ordinance will consist of carrying over amendments that are already included in the 2001 Seattle Energy Code—a housekeeping measure in response to the Washington State Energy Code revisions.** DCLU has proposed three clarifications to existing Seattle amendments, and written comments are due by February 15, 2002.

For the three tasks in Ordinance 120525, additional meetings have been scheduled for 7:30-9:00 a.m. in Key Tower, Room 3960A (39th floor), 700 Fifth Avenue, in downtown Seattle, as follows:

- January 31, 2002 (Thursday): RS-29
- February 7, 2002 (Thursday): Existing Mechanical Systems
- February 14, 2002 (Thursday): Exterior Lighting
- February 19, 2002 (Tuesday): Existing Mechanical Systems
- February 28, 2002 (Thursday): RS-29
- March 7, 2002 (Thursday): Preliminary recommendations to send to the DCLU Construction Codes Advisory Board (CCAB)
- March 14, 2002 (Thursday): Final recommendations/Wrap-up

Agendas and any supplementary material will be posted on the Seattle Energy Code website. The goal is to complete the 2002 Seattle Energy Code ordinance by late March 2002, so that it can be forwarded to the City Council by April 2002 so as to be adopted and implemented with the revised Washington State Energy Code on July 1, 2002.

If you wish to be added to the Seattle Energy Code email list, join the Seattle Energy Code listserv (see the sidebar). For additional information, please contact:

**John Hogan, DCLU, [john.hogan@ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:john.hogan@ci.seattle.wa.us), (206) 386-9145**

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### Join the Seattle Energy Code Email List

A list serve has been set up for the Seattle Energy Code. To add or remove yourself from the list, please send an email using the following instructions:

#### TO JOIN

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**To:** [lists@list.ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:lists@list.ci.seattle.wa.us)  
(this must be the way shown here in order for it to work)

**Subject:** LEAVE BLANK

**Message:** join EnergyCode  
user@domain.com

*Here is an example:*

**To:** [lists@list.ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:lists@list.ci.seattle.wa.us)

**Subject:**

**Message Body:**

join EnergyCode

[john.hogan@ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:john.hogan@ci.seattle.wa.us)

(this subject information all goes on one line)

**NOTE:** "Join" is the command that you are requesting and "EnergyCode" is the name of the list.

#### TO UNSUBSCRIBE

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**Subject:** BLANK

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user@domain.com

